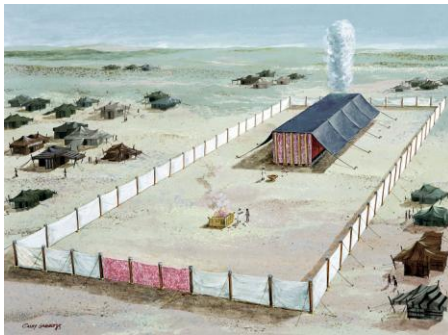


Creation to Christ Bible Study



Book 3 of 4

Dear Friend,

The Bible is God's recorded message to the peoples of the world. To most people the Bible is like a big jigsaw puzzle. Have you ever put a jigsaw puzzle together? First, most people find the four corner pieces of puzzle. Then they find the edge pieces and put together the frame. Then they go to work to fill in the middle and a picture begins to develop. Not until you have placed the last piece in the puzzle do you get to see the whole picture.

The Creation to Christ Bible study is a series of 4 books. Book number 1 lays out the four corner pieces to our Bible puzzle. Book number 2 builds the outer frame. Books 3 and 4 fill in the middle to reveal a beautiful picture of God's grace and mercy.

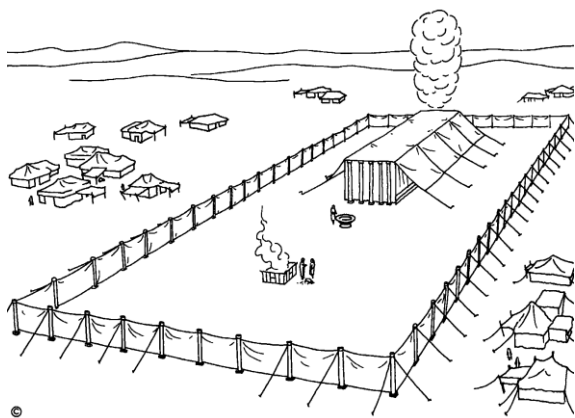
At the end of the booklet is a short series of questions from each lesson to help you better understand what you just read. I suggest looking at the questions at the end before you read. Then after reading the lesson, go back and try to answer the questions.

As you complete each lesson and answer the questions on the following pages, please mail the sheets with the answered questions to the address below. **Please keep this book number 3 as our gift to you.** Include your return address - you will receive book number 4 within a couple of weeks after completing book number 3. If you have any spiritual questions or would like further help, please write to us – we would like to help:

Paul & Mary VanderKley
1012 W. Nevada Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

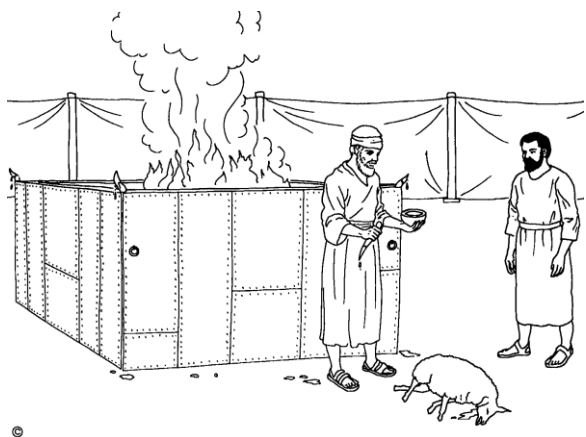
Lesson 13: "Tabernacle and 40 years in the Wilderness"

In our last lesson we studied how God gave Israel His Law (10 Commandments). God agreed with Israel that, if they obeyed His laws, then He would be with them, protect them, and give them all that they needed. However, if they disobeyed His laws, then the punishment was death. God knew that the Israelites were sinners and would not be able to always obey his commands. God knew that they would disobey him and he would have to punish them. However, God also loved them and so he provided a way for them to escape punishment. God told them to build a special place where he would live and communicate with them.



God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build a tabernacle (tent) where God's presence would be manifested to the Israelites. We won't take the time to study the Tabernacle. However, it is worth studying, because we learn many things about God. When a person wanted to approach God, his first step was to bring an animal offering to God. He was to place his hand on the head of the animal and then kill it. By doing this, he was admitting to God that he was a sinner and deserved to die. By placing his hands on the animal, he was identifying himself with this animal that was to die in his place.

God allowed sheep, goats, bulls, and birds as sacrifices. The animals were to be perfect males and the blood be shed. It wasn't the blood of animals that cleansed their sin, but was only a reminder that death was the punishment for sin. This was a picture of the Savior who was promised by God to defeat sin and Satan. The animal was then burned on an altar. God promised to hold off the punishment they deserved and forgave their sins if they came to Him in the way He commanded.



After the Tabernacle was finished, God led the Israelites to the edge of the "Promised Land". This was the land God promised to give Abraham over 430 years before. God told Moses to choose one man from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to go out and spy out the land. When the spies returned, ten of them brought back an evil report and two of them brought a good report. The ten were telling the Israelites how giants were living in the land and strong walls surrounded the cities. They did

not believe God was strong enough to overcome the people of Canaan (Promised Land) and give them the land. Joshua and Caleb had seen the strong walls and the size of the people, but they believed that God would give them the land.

Numbers 14:1-3 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

The Israelites agreed with the ten men and did not believe that God would give them the land. They believed God was a liar. God said he would give them the land but they did not believe him. They were fearful because the people of Canaan were bigger and stronger than the Jews. God became angry with the Israelites, because they did not believe Him. God told them that every person twenty years old and older who did not believe God would die in the wilderness. Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who believed God. God said that after forty years, after those people died, then he would lead their children, Joshua, and Caleb into the land and give it to them.

It is an evil thing not to believe God. God wanted to bring Israel into the land of Canaan. However, God made them wander in the wilderness for forty years because they chose not to believe Him. All those unbelieving adults from twenty years and upward died in the wilderness over the forty years.

God's Word tells us some stories about what happened to Israel during these forty years of wandering in the wilderness. We will cover one event in this lesson. As usual it did not take long for Israel to start complaining and murmuring when difficulties came. God provided food and water for Israel after they began their journey from Egypt, but they still did not trust and depend on Him. They forgot what God did for them and began to complain, because they ran out of water once again.

Numbers 21:5, 6 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

Many of the Israelites died because they were bitten by the snakes. From the very beginning, God said sin would lead to death - physical, relational, and eternal. Now the truth was graphically illustrated as many people died. This was God's judgment on them because of their sin. Just like they were bitten by the snakes and died, so every person has been bitten by the "serpent of sin". As a result, we are separated from God and will one day die physically. Those who die separated from God will be eternally separated from God in the Lake of Fire. Those who are accepted by God before death, will after death, live with God forever in Heaven. You may ask yourself, "How can I be accepted by God?" That is what the message of the Bible is all about. The purpose of these lessons is to help you understand this message so that you can be accepted by God and live with God in Heaven forever.

The Jews could not escape the poisonous snakes sent by God. When God decides to punish sinners, there is no place where they can hide. In the days of Noah, after God shut the door to the ark, there was no escape for those outside the ark. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah could not escape the judgment of God when he sent fire and destroyed those cities. When God decides that it is the time to punish people, there is no place where they can go to escape.

Numbers 21:7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

God's purpose in judgment is to bring about a change of mind for those who have sinned. The Bible describes this word as repentance. The Israelites quickly changed their attitude toward God and acknowledged their sin. They realized now that only God would save them from their punishment. They could not save themselves from the snakes.

Numbers 21:8,9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.



God is loving, merciful and gracious. He decided to make a way to save those who believe Him. They did not deserve God's help, but he saves all those who trust in Him. God did not tell the Jews to find their own way to be healed, but he told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. God said if any person believes Him that all they had to do was look at the serpent and then they would not die. God provided a way for them to escape death, but it had to be done God's way and not their own.

Do you think the people would have lived if they only prayed but did not look? No. What if they did not look at the serpent but offered God a gift or money instead? Would they have lived? No. They had to look, just as God said.

This event happened about 3,400 years ago. God put this event in the Bible for us to learn that we need to listen to God and believe him. The Israelites wandered around the wilderness for forty years, and all those people who refused to believe the God would give them the Promised Land died. This was God's punishment on them because they refused to believe God's Word. Just as the Israelites were given God's words by Moses, so we are given God's Word (Bible). God holds us responsible for what we know about Him. God gave us His Word so that we might believe Him. If we refuse to believe God, then we like the Israelites will die in our sins.

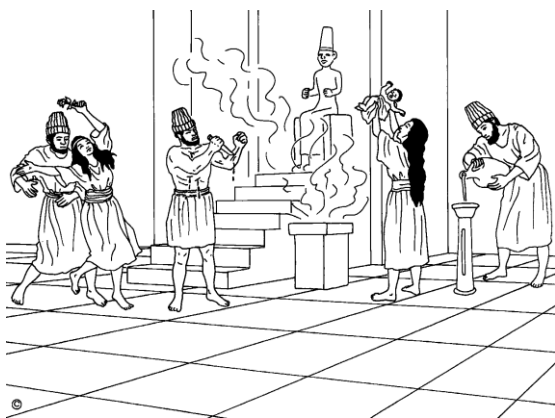
Moses died shortly before God was ready to send Israel into the Promised Land. God appointed Joshua to be the new leader. He used Joshua to lead His people into the land of Canaan. The people of the land fought against Israel, but God protected the army and defeated the people of the land.

God promised to give Israel the land of Canaan. Although Satan and the king of Egypt had tried to stop the Israelites from leaving Egypt and although the Israelites had doubted God many times, God still did what he had promised to do. He led them, protected them, and gave them water and food for forty years while they wandered in the wilderness. God did not fail to do any of the things he promised.

* Please answer lesson 13 questions on page 21 *

Lesson 14: "Time of the Judges and Kings"

After Joshua died the Israelites soon forgot God. They followed the ways of the nations that did not know the true and living God. They soon made idols and worshipped them instead of God. God wanted to drive out the people of Canaan from the Promised Land and give it to the Israelites. However, they refused to believe and obey God, so He allowed some of the Canaanite people to remain in the land.



Israel had settled among these people. Instead of trusting God, they adopted the evil practices of the Canaanites. The Canaanites worshipped false gods named Baal and Ashtaroah. They thought they were real gods, but did not realize Satan deceived them into worshipping himself. When anyone does not worship God, they are really worshipping Satan. Satan hates God and doesn't want anyone to worship God.

God punished Israel, because they forgot him and worshipped idols. God allowed surrounding nations to overcome Israel and make them slaves. God warned them this would happen but they did not listen to him. When Israel repented, God chose a man to deliver them from their enemies. The people chosen by God were called judges. This time period became known as the time of the judges. When the Israelites forgot God and worshipped idols, God allowed them to be conquered by their enemies. Each time they repented, God would raise up a new judge to deliver them and rule over them. After the judge died, the Israelites went back to idolatry and the same process repeated itself for 350 years.

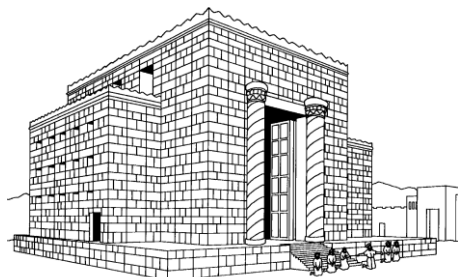
The nation of Israel was the most fortunate of all the nations, because their ruler and king was God himself. After the period of the judges, Israel rejected God and asked for a king like all the nations around them. Many kings ruled over Israel for the next 450 years. A few of these kings believed and trusted God, but many did not.



David was the greatest king of Israel. Unlike many of the other kings who ruled over Israel, David truly believed in God and wanted to obey him in everything. David, like all of us, was born a sinner and was separated from God. David knew that he was a sinner and that the wages of sin was death. He knew his only hope was to receive God's mercy and forgiveness. David offered blood sacrifices for his sins and God accepted him like Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Joshua. God even promised David that the coming Savior would be one of his descendants.

David was also one of God's prophets. God chose David to write many of the Psalms in the Bible. David was a shepherd before he became king. Some of the Psalms use imagery taken from David's knowledge of sheep. God used this imagery to explain to us that our position as sinners is like a straying sheep. We need a wise, strong, kind shepherd to keep us from going astray and to guide us into right paths.

After David's death, Solomon his son reigned. His wealth grew beyond what anyone could wish. He built a beautiful temple for God's presence to dwell in. After Solomon's death the nation of Israel argued over who should be king, and they split into two kingdoms. The ten northern tribes were called Israel, and the two southern tribes were called Judah.



God loves every person from every nation and culture. He wants every person to be delivered from the power of Satan, sin and death. Therefore, from the very beginning, God spoke through his messengers to teach people his ways and warn them of his judgment as a result of their sin. God's messengers were called prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were some of the well known messengers of God. You will find these and the names of some other prophets used as titles to the Old Testament books of the Bible which these men wrote.

God's prophets told the people to repent and trust only in God. Repentance means to have a change of mind which results in a change of attitude and direction in life. To repent is to agree with God about your own sin. Many Israelites worshipped God in the temple Solomon built and also worshipped idols. The prophets told the people to choose who they were going to worship, either God or idols. They told them they could not worship God truly if they were worshipping anything else.

Hundreds of years before the Savior came, God through these prophets foretold many things about the Savior. These were written down in the Bible. There are more than 300 prophecies about the Savior. The following list has 20 of the more famous ones. God gave these prophecies so no one would miss Him when He arrived. God wanted them to know who the Savior would be and when He would come. All these prophecies were given 400-1000 years before the Savior was even born. To make a comparison, imagine making predictions about a person who would live in 400, 700, or even 1,000 years from now. These predictions would include the person's birth city, mother, and family line, events in the last week of his life, and specific details about his death and burial. And they all have to be 100% correct! Is this easy to do? Not at all!

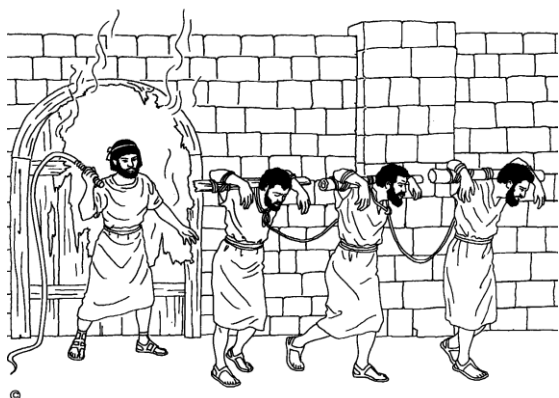
1. Descendant of King David	Isaiah 9:6-7
2. Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14
3. Born in the city of Bethlehem	Micah 5:2
4. Called a light of the Nations	Isaiah 42:6
5. Called back from Egypt	Hosea 11:1
6. Riding on a baby donkey	Zechariah 9:9
7. Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9
8. Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12, 13
9. Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 27:12
10. Hit and spit upon	Isaiah 50:6
11. No response to accusations	Isaiah 53:7
12. Hated for no reason	Psalms 69:4
13. Rejected by the Jews (Israelites)	Isaiah 53:3
14. Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16
15. Clothing was gambled for	Psalms 22:18
16. Died with evil men	Isaiah 53:12
17. Mocked and insulted	Psalms 22:6-8
18. The cry of separation	Psalms 22:1
19. Buried among the rich	Isaiah 53:9
20. Return to Heaven	Psalms 68:18

In the remaining lessons we will see how the all powerful God fulfilled these predictions in the life of the Savior. They are recorded in the next major section of the Bible called the New Testament.

The majority of the Israelites refused to obey the words of God. They persecuted and killed many of God's messengers. They continued to worship idols and follow the wicked ways of the surrounding nations. Besides the prophets sent by God, Satan sent false prophets to speak lies to Israel. Satan wanted to confuse them about what was true and what was false. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. They told the people that everything would be all right and that God would not punish them. Satan is still the same today. He sends his messengers who say that God's Word is not true or that God will not punish sin.

God is patient and does not immediately punish sinners. He warned the people in Noah's time for 120 years before the flood destroyed them. For many hundreds of years, God sent his messengers to Israel. They warned them of God's coming judgment if they did not repent. Israel did not believe God. Therefore, God allowed their enemies to fight against them and conquer them, because Israel would not repent and believe.

The Assyrian army conquered the northern ten tribes and took them away as captives. Several years later, when the Southern two tribes refused to repent, God allowed the Babylonians to take them away into their country. The Babylonians smashed down the stone walls of Jerusalem and burned the temple of God which Solomon had built. God did what he had warned them he would do if they did not repent.



After 70 years, the people of Judah in Babylon repented and asked the God to take them back to their own land. God heard their cries for his help and he brought them back to Jerusalem. They rebuilt the city and the walls around it. They also rebuilt the temple. The Israelites who returned to their land were also given another name. They were called Jews. The Jews continued to worship God, although the majority did not do it from their hearts.

Their descendants did not believe and obey God. After a many years, God judged the Jews again by allowing the Greeks to conquer and control their country and taught them to speak the Greek language. Many years later, the Roman army conquered Greece and they took control of Jerusalem.

Even though many Jews did not believe God, there was always a small number who believed God and His Word given through his messengers. They were waiting for the coming Savior promised by God.

* Please answer lesson 14 questions on page 22 *

Lesson 15: "God Sends the Savior"

The last prophet to speak for God was a man by the name of Malachi. He reminded the Jews that God's promised Savior would come to save them. He also told them that before the Savior came, God would send another prophet. The work of this prophet would be to teach the people so they would

be ready for the coming Savior. After Malachi, however, four hundred years passed during which God did not speak through any prophet. This period of time is known as the "silent years".

After the silent years were finished, God was ready to do what he first promised in the Garden of Eden. He was ready to send the Savior. We are now going to begin our study in the New Testament with an elderly Jewish couple who believed God and were waiting for the Savior.

Luke 1:5,6 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.



Zacharias and Elisabeth were now old and they were never able to have children. Zacharias was one of the priests in the temple at Jerusalem. While he was doing his work, an angel was sent from God to tell him an important message. God promised elderly Zacharias that he would have a son and must name him John. John was going to be this last prophet to prepare the people for the coming Savior. The angel called the coming Savior "the Lord". The coming Savior was to be God himself.

A few weeks later, God sent another angel to tell a virgin named Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of the coming Savior. His name was to be called Jesus, which means Savior. God loved the whole world and he wanted sinners to be delivered from the punishment they deserved.

The Savior had to be a human just as we are, except he must be sinless to deliver us from Satan and sin. So in order for God's plan about the Savior to be fulfilled, God had to be born as a human being. God chose Mary to be the mother of the Savior. Mary's son would be both God and man in one body. Jesus would be fully God and fully man.



Luke 1:34, 35 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Jesus would be born sinless because he would be born without a human father. No descendant of Adam is holy and righteous. Every person in the world inherited Adam's sin, but Jesus is God who is perfect and holy. Jesus would not inherit Adam's sinfulness. It was impossible for a virgin to have a child, but with God all things are possible. God created Adam out of the dust of the ground and therefore it is not difficult for God to give this child to Mary without a human father.

The Savior for whom John was to prepare the way was to be God himself. No ordinary man could deliver us from Satan, sin, and death. Who delivered Noah and his family from the flood? Who delivered Isaac from death and provided a ram to die in his place? Who delivered Lot from the

destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? Who delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt? The Lord God alone is the great Savior, who would make it possible for us to come to God.

Mary, who was to be Jesus' mother, had already been promised to be married to a man called Joseph. Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, and Joseph knew that he was not the father of this baby. According to Jewish law, Joseph could have Mary killed for being pregnant with a child that was not Joseph's. However, Joseph loved Mary and so he decided to break off their engagement quietly. God was not going to allow Joseph to separate from Mary. Joseph was a good man who trusted in God. He, too, was a sinner, but he came to God in the way God had provided. God wanted Joseph to take

Mary as his wife so Jesus would also have a good earthly father. God sent his angel to tell Joseph in a dream the truth about Mary. She was not unfaithful to Joseph, but still a virgin.



Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The prophets said the Savior would be born of a virgin. Jesus was born into this world to save sinners from God's punishment. He came to save all those who agree with God that they are sinners needing a Savior. Immanuel means God with us. This means that God himself would come to earth to be born as a child and live with people in this world. Jesus was born in Bethlehem just as the prophets of God said many years earlier.

Matthew 2:1-3 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Herod, just like the Egyptian Pharaoh during the time of Moses, did not want anyone to rule over him. Herod was afraid that he would lose his position as king when this baby grew up to be a man. The wise men found the baby Jesus with his mother and worshipped him and gave him presents. God



warned the wise men not to return to Herod, because Herod wanted to know where he was so he could kill him. They went back to their country a different way. God also told Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt where he would be safe from Herod's plan to destroy him. Jesus was taken to Egypt just as the prophets said many hundreds of years before.

When Herod was dead, God sent one of his angels to tell Joseph to take Mary and Jesus back into the land of Israel. They settled in the northern part of Israel in a city called Nazareth.

Luke 2:40, 52 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Jesus grew from a baby into a strong and wise man. He never sinned because he was not born a sinner. Even though Jesus was God, he was also a real human being. He grew into manhood in a human body. We learned the Savior had to be both God and man in one body. Jesus was God, but he was also born into this world as a man so he could be the Savior.

As we mentioned in the last lesson, the prophets from the Old Testament wrote many prophecies concerning the coming Savior. The following chart illustrates just a few prophecies which were fulfilled just as God promised.

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Prediction</u>	<u>Fulfillment</u>
David's descendant	Isaiah 9:7	Matthew 1:1
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Flee into Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14
Characteristics	Isaiah 11:2	Luke 2:52

* Please answer lesson 15 questions on page 23 *

Lesson 16: "The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus"

John, who had been chosen by God to be the prophet to prepare the Jews to receive the Savior, was now an adult. It was time for John to begin teaching the people that they must repent.

Matthew 3:1, 2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.



John meant that the people must change their attitude toward God and about their sin. They needed to agree with God that they sinned against Him and they were helpless to save themselves from Satan, sin, and death in the Lake of Fire.

These are the same things which God wants every one of us to understand about ourselves and to agree with God. Remember when we studied the Ten Commandments? None of us have been able to keep these commandments perfectly. God calls our disobedience sin. The punishment for our sin is death and eternal separation from God.

Matthew 3:5, 6 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Many of the Jews believed God's Word which John told them and went to him to be baptized. When a person was baptized, it was a sign to everyone that the person agreed with God that he deserved death for his own sins, but was trusting in God to send the Savior to save him. Their baptism was an outward sign which illustrated inner repentance and belief in John's message. Baptism will not make us acceptable to God. Baptism will not wash away our sins. Baptism is just a sign to show others that a

person agrees with God's message and that he is trusting only in God to save him.

Many of the religious leaders were too proud to admit they were sinners. The religious leaders were made up of three groups of people, the Scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees. The Scribes were the men who copied the words of God onto scrolls. They were the men who were supposed to know and explain the real meaning of the words of God. The Pharisees were a group of men who tried to be accepted by God based on different rules which they had written. The Pharisees added to God's word and did not think they were sinners like other people. The Sadducees did not believe many things which God had written in his Word. The Pharisees added to God's Word and the Sadducees took truths away from it. The Sadducees were also political leaders of the Jews and therefore kept in good standing with the Roman government which the Jews hated.

Many of these religious leaders would not admit they were sinners. They thought they were good enough for God to accept them. Consequently, they did not like John's message of repentance. John told the Pharisees and Sadducees not to trust in the fact they were Abraham's descendants. They thought that God would accept them because they were Abraham's descendants. No one is accepted by God because of his parents or religious background. God judges everyone individually.

Jesus came to be baptized by John when he was about thirty years old. Jesus was not a sinner who needed a Savior. Jesus was holy and sinless. Jesus came to be baptized because this was God's command to all Jews who accepted John as God's prophet. If Jesus was not baptized, then the people would think that he did not obey God's commands. Also, Jesus wanted to confirm John's message as being true.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

When John saw Jesus, he said that Jesus was the Lamb who was sent by God. John knew that Jesus was the promised Savior. Later, in another lesson, we will study exactly what John meant when he called Jesus the Lamb of God.



Matthew 4:1, 2 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

After Jesus was baptized he went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. God had created Lucifer (now known as Satan or the Devil) perfect, but he made a choice to rebel against God in the beginning. Since then, Satan has been continually evil. Satan tempted Adam to rebel against God. Now he was trying to tempt Jesus to rebel against God. Satan wanted to bring Jesus under his control so Jesus would not be able to be the Savior. Although Jesus is God, he was also a real man. After forty days without eating any food, he was very hungry.

Matthew 4:3, 4 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Satan was trying to make Jesus prove he was God. He could have turned stones into bread, but Jesus would not obey Satan. We need food to keep our bodies alive, but God says that there is something much more important than food. We need God's Word to show us the truth and the way to everlasting life. What benefit will food be if we have healthy bodies but die without God and suffer everlasting punishment? We need to eat food so our bodies will live, but we also need to hear and believe God's Word so we will be able to live forever with God.

Matthew 4:5-7 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Satan tried to quote an Old Testament portion of Scripture. Satan knows the words of God in the Bible, but he uses them in the wrong way. He was not quoting Scripture accurately. He only selects portions so he can twist God's words in order to trick people. Satan still uses this approach today. He tries to make people think they should demand that God perform miracles to prove himself to them.

Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Satan could offer Jesus control over all the kingdoms in the world because Satan became the god of this world when Adam sinned against God. Satan tried to get Jesus to worship him. Jesus defeated Satan and did not obey him as Adam did in the Garden of Eden.

You may have seen movies present the struggle between the forces of good and evil. Often this struggle is presented as if there were two equal forces battling against one another. God's Word tells us that God is the supreme Creator of all things. Satan could not make Jesus sin. Satan is a strong enemy, but he is no match for the Almighty God.

* Please answer lesson 16 questions on page 24 *

Lesson 17: "Jesus Begins His Ministry"

John faithfully taught God's message to prepare the people to trust in Jesus as the promised Savior. Many people changed their minds about their sin. They knew they needed a Savior to save them from the punishment for their sins. King Herod, who was living a very sinful life, did not like the things which John said. He put John in prison and finally killed him.

Mark 1:14, 15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

John had finished his work of preparing the way for the Savior before he was killed. It was now

time for Jesus to begin teaching. He taught them to change their attitude, and to agree with God that they were helpless sinners, and to believe the good news that he had come to tell them. The word gospel means good news. Satan had become the ruler of this world when Adam disobeyed God and followed Satan. However, God is loving, merciful, and gracious to sinners. He sent Jesus into the world to



overcome Satan and to deliver people from Satan's control. We are all born into this world under the control of Satan. Jesus said that the only way for anyone to escape Satan's control is to agree with God and believe his good news.

Mark 1:23-25 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

Synagogues were places where the Jews met to worship God. Unclean spirits are demons. Demons are angels who long ago rebelled against God and followed Satan. They like to live in and control people. Satan and the demons know that Jesus is their Creator. They also know he is perfect and hates all sin. This demon knew that someday he would be thrown into the Lake of Fire, and he knew that Jesus had the power to throw him into the fire right then.

Mark 1:33, 34 And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Jesus Christ is God and felt compassion for these sick and demon possessed people. He knew that all of these terrible things are in the world because of man's sin and the rule of Satan. God is also concerned for you. He has not changed. He is still the same today. He knows whether or not we are still under the power of Satan. The Lord desires to rescue everyone from Satan's control.

Mark 1:40-42 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

This man knew he could not heal himself and that no man could help him, but Jesus was different. He recognized that Jesus could help him. He came to Jesus asking for his mercy and his help. The sickness of leprosy is like the sin in our lives. There is no way that we can rid ourselves of sin. Only Jesus Christ can help us. Lepers were outcasts in Bible times and no one would even come near them. Jesus touched this man because he loved him. Jesus spoke and the leprosy was gone.

John 3:1-3 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The Jews, and especially the Pharisees, were very proud that they were the descendants of

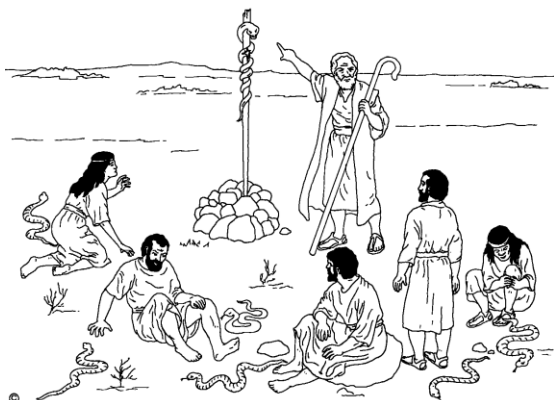
Abraham. They thought that they were in God's family because they were Abraham's descendants. They did not realize that every person born into the world is born under Satan's rule. No one is able to know, understand, love, or obey God unless they are born again.



Jesus told Nicodemus that the only way a person can be accepted by God is to be born again. Those who are born again are able to know, understand, love and obey God. Our good works can not bring us out of Satan's kingdom and into God's kingdom. Only God can bring us into his kingdom. He is almighty and nothing is impossible to him. By his power, he causes people to be born again spiritually into God's family.

John 3:4-7 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Nicodemus was very surprised to hear what Jesus said. He thought that Jesus meant people have to be born a second time as a baby. The water of which Jesus spoke is not baptism. Baptism cannot make us acceptable to God nor can it wash away our sin. Jesus was not speaking of a physical birth, but a spiritual birth produced by the Holy Spirit.



John 3:14, 15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Nicodemus still could not understand how he could be born into God's family. Jesus explained by reminding him of what happened to the Jews in the wilderness. The Israelites sinned against God. He sent poisonous snakes to bite them, and many died. When they repented, God told Moses to make a brass snake and put it on a pole. God promised that whoever was bitten and looked at the brass snake would live.

Nicodemus had been trying to observe God's laws. He had not realized that in his own efforts, he was totally unacceptable to God. He needed to do what the Israelites had done and simply believe God. We are in the same situation as Nicodemus. All of Adam's descendants are separated from God. The Israelites could not save themselves from the snakes, just like we can not save ourselves from sin and death. God delivered the Israelites, and only God can deliver us. Jesus said there is only one way we can be delivered from Satan, sin, and death and that is to be born again into God's family. Jesus said that he must be lifted up, just as the brass snake was in the wilderness, so that whoever trusts in him will be accepted by God and live forever with God in Heaven.

No one needs to wait until he dies to know if he will be accepted or rejected by God. Those who do nothing with the Savior are condemned and rejected by God right now. Those who repent and trust

in the Savior are not condemned, but are accepted by God.

* Please answer lesson 17 questions on page 25 *

Lesson 18: "Jesus Proves He is God"

Mark 2:1,2 *And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.*

People came to see Jesus for various reasons. Some people were curious. Some wanted to be healed. Some thought he was going to be the king who would deliver them from Roman rule. Some wanted to hear him because he spoke God's Word with power, but others hoped he would say or do something they could find fault with. They wanted to charge him with a crime, not because he was guilty, but because they were jealous of his popularity with the people.



Mark 2:3, 4 *And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.*

This man could not do anything to heal himself. No doctor could heal him and his friends could not make him better. This reminds us of the helplessness of all people. No one is able to deliver himself from Satan's rule, the sin which controls his life, and the punishment for his

sin. Good deeds or a good life can not save us. We can not deliver ourselves.

Mark 2:5-7 *When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?*

Jesus saw that this man truly believed him and he forgave his sins. Those in the audience were right when they said only God can forgive sins. They were wrong when they said Jesus sinned by what he said. Jesus is God and has the authority to forgive people their sins. The Scribes and Pharisees did not believe Jesus was God who had come to be the Savior. Jesus then demonstrated his power as God by completely healing the man. All the people were truly amazed.

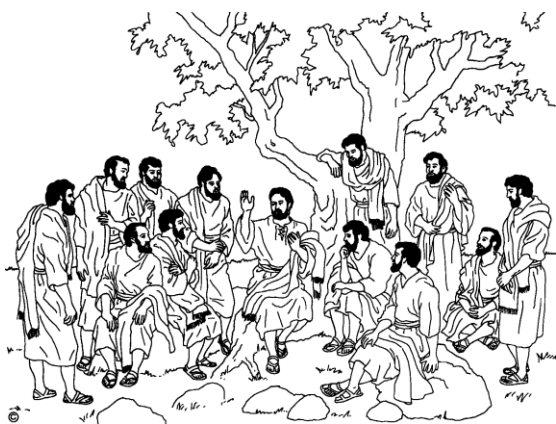
Mark 2:14 *And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.*

Jesus called Levi, also known as Matthew, to follow him as one of his disciples. Matthew was working for the Romans as a tax collector. The tax collectors were hated and despised by the Jews. Often tax collectors had a reputation for collecting extra taxes from the people and keeping the money for themselves. Matthew was a sinner just like everyone else born into this world. He deserved death and everlasting punishment for his sins. However, Matthew repented of his sin. He changed his mind

about his sin. He agreed with God and trusted Jesus as the Savior whom God had sent into the world. Many years later, God used Matthew to write the first book of the New Testament.

Mark 2:16,17 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

The Scribes and Pharisees were proud. They believed they were far better than others because they fasted, prayed, and did many other things trying to please God. They would not even eat a meal with people like tax collectors who openly sinned. Jesus told them that healthy people do not need a doctor, but the sick. Jesus did not come to help people who think they are sinless or good enough for God to accept them. Instead, he came to be the Savior of those who would admit that they are helpless sinners who can only be saved by the mercy of God.



Mark 3:13-15 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Jesus had many disciples who followed him to learn the message of God. Jesus chose twelve men from a large group of followers to help him in his work of teaching, healing, and casting out demons. Jesus planned to train these men to become his special representatives. Most of these twelve disciples whom Jesus picked were not highly educated. Neither were they rich men. Some of them were fishermen before they began to follow Jesus as his disciples.

All of them believed him, except one man named Judas Iscariot. Judas said that he agreed with God and believed on Jesus, but he spoke only with his lips and did not believe in his heart. He was a hypocrite, because his mind and heart did not agree with God. He did not truly trust Jesus to be his Savior from the control of Satan, sin, and death. The other eleven disciples did not know that Judas was not a true believer, but Jesus knew what he was really like. Jesus knew that Judas would one day betray him to his enemies.

John 6:1, 2 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

Many of these people followed Jesus because they were looking for material benefits from him. By the way, it will not help a person if he follows the teachings of the Bible in order to receive earthly benefits or wealth. Jesus did not come into the world to give earthly riches. Jesus came to be the Savior from Satan, sin, and everlasting death.

John 6:5-7 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he

himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

Jesus already knew what he was going to do. He asked Philip, one of the twelve disciples, this question to test him. He had seen Jesus already perform many miracles, but he did not trust Jesus to feed all these people. Another disciple brought five small loaves and two fishes that a young boy had given to Jesus. Jesus broke the loaves and fish, and they multiplied in his hands. He fed 5,000 men besides women and children. He was able to do this because he is Almighty God.



The people wanted Jesus to be their king so he would heal their sicknesses, give them food, and deliver them from the control of the Romans. During the night, Jesus and his twelve disciples took a boat trip across the lake. Many of these people the next day went across the lake to find Jesus.

The people still did not believe Jesus. They wanted to see another miracle. They were just looking at the great things he did, instead of listening to the truth he was teaching. God gave the Israelites manna from Heaven and water from the rock to save them from physical death in the wilderness. God sent Jesus from Heaven into the world to save sinners from eternal death. If a person refuses to eat food he will die physically. If a person refuses to trust in Jesus as his Savior, he will remain separated from God forever in the Lake of Fire.

Do you remember that when Adam and Eve sinned, they were immediately separated from God? Although they had been created in the image of God with the ability to know, love, and obey him, they were no longer able to respond to God. They were under Satan's control. They were no longer in fellowship with God. As Adam's descendants, we are born sinners and separated from God.

A good meal can make you feel quite satisfied for a few hours, but then you get hungry again. The people ate what Jesus gave them, but then they wanted more the next day. Jesus said that those who trust in him will find eternal life. They will find a new life that satisfies completely. He can satisfy us because he alone can bring us back into a relationship with God. He came to give us a new, everlasting, and satisfying life.

The only person that a sinner needs to be accepted by God and receive eternal life is Jesus Christ. All who trust in Jesus as their Savior will not need to trust in any good deeds they might do or in anyone or in anything else.

* Please answer lesson 18 questions on page 26 *

Review: Lessons 13-18

God led the Israelites to the edge of Canaan after He gave Israel His Law (10 Commandments) at Mt. Sinai. However, the Israelites were afraid of the giants living in the land and the tall walls surrounding the cities. They did not believe God was powerful enough to give them the land and they wanted to return to Egypt. God was very disappointed with the Israelites, because they did not believe Him. God told them that every person twenty years old and older who did not believe God would die in the wilderness. Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who believed God. God said that after forty years he would lead the children of those who died, Joshua, and Caleb into the land and give it to them.

It did not take long for Israel to start complaining and murmuring again when difficulties came. As a result of their unbelief God sent serpents and many people who were bitten died. God's purpose in judgment is to bring about a change of mind for those who have sinned. The Bible describes this word as repentance. The Israelites quickly changed their attitude toward God and acknowledged their sin. They realized now that only God would save them from their punishment. They could not save themselves from the snakes.

God decided to make a way to save those who repented. God told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. God said if any person believes Him that all they had to do was look at the serpent and then they would not die. God provided a way for them to escape death, but it had to be done God's way and not their own.

Moses died shortly before God was ready to send Israel into the Promised Land. God appointed Joshua to be the new leader of Israel. God used Joshua to lead his people into the land of Canaan. Soon after Joshua died the Israelites entered into a period of time known as the "Judges". The people forgot God and followed the ways of the nations around them that did not know the true and living God. They soon made idols and worshipped them instead of God. God allowed surrounding nations to conquer Israel and make them slaves. God warned them this would happen but they did not listen to him.

When Israel repented, God chose a man (called a judge) to deliver them from their enemies. When the judge died, then the Israelites forgot God and worshipped idols again. God allowed their enemies to rule over them again. When they repented, God would raise up a new Judge. This process repeated itself for 350 years.

After the period of the judges, Israel rejected God and asked for a king like all the nations around them. Many kings ruled over Israel for the next 450 years. A few of these kings believed and trusted God, but many did not. David was the greatest king of Israel. After David's death, Solomon his son reigned. After Solomon's death the nation of Israel argued over who should be king, and they split into two kingdoms. The ten northern tribes were called Israel, and the two southern tribes were called Judah.

From the very beginning, God spoke through his messengers to teach people his ways and warn them of judgment as a result of their sin. God's messengers were called prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were some of the well known messengers of God. God's prophets told the people to repent and trust only in God. Repentance means to have a change of mind which results in a change of attitude and direction in life. To repent is to agree with God about your own sin.

The majority of the Israelites refused to obey the words of God. They persecuted and killed many of God's messengers. They continued to worship idols and follow the wicked ways of the

surrounding nations. The Assyrian army conquered the northern ten tribes and took them away as captives. The southern two tribes called Judah also refused to repent and God allowed the Babylonians to take them away into their country.

After 70 years, the people of Judah who were in Babylon repented and asked the God to take them back to their own land. God heard their cries for his help and he did bring them back to Jerusalem. Most of their descendants did not obey God. After a many years, God judged the Jews again by allowing the Greeks to conquer and control their country, and taught them to speak the Greek language. Many years later, the Roman army conquered Greece and they took control of Jerusalem.

Even though many Jews did not believe God, there was always a small number who believed God and His Word given through his messengers. They were waiting for the coming Savior promised by God. The last prophet to speak for God was a man by the name of Malachi. He reminded the Jews that God's promised Savior would come to save them. He also told them that before the Savior came, God would send another prophet. The work of this prophet would be to teach the people so they would be ready for the coming Savior. After Malachi, however, four hundred years passed during which God did not speak through any prophet. This period of time is commonly known as the "silent years".

After the silent years were finished, God was ready to do what he first promised in the Garden of Eden. He was ready to send the Savior. Zacharias and Elisabeth were old and they were never able to have children. Zacharias was one of the priests in the temple at Jerusalem. While he was doing his work, an angel was sent from God to tell him an important message. God promised elderly Zacharias that he would have a son and must name him John. John was going to be this last prophet to prepare the people for the coming Savior. The coming Savior, the Savior of men, was to be God himself.

A few weeks later, God sent another angel to tell a virgin named Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of the coming Savior. His name was to be called Jesus, which means Savior. God loved the whole world and he wanted sinners to be delivered from the punishment they deserved. The Savior for whom John was to prepare the way was to be God himself. No ordinary man could deliver us from Satan, sin, and death. God alone is the great Savior. God only promised one Savior who would make it possible for us to come to God.

The prophets said the Savior would be born of a virgin, and he was. Jesus grew from a baby into a strong and wise man. Even though Jesus was God, he was also a real human being. He grew into manhood in a human body. We learned the Savior had to be both God and man in one body. Jesus was God, but he was also born into this world as a man so he could be the Savior.

John the Baptist, who had been chosen by God to be the prophet to prepare the Jews to receive the Savior, was now an adult. It was God's time for John to begin teaching the people that they must repent. They needed to agree with God that they sinned against Him and they were helpless to save themselves from Satan, sin, and death in the Lake of Fire.

John had finished his work of preparing the way for the Savior before he was killed. It was now time for Jesus to begin teaching. He taught them to change their attitude, and to agree with God that they were helpless sinners, and to believe the good news that he had come to tell them. Jesus taught in their Synagogues which were places where the Jews met to worship God. He felt compassion for the sick, diseased and demon possessed people. He knew that all of these terrible things are in the world because of man's sin and the rule of Satan. Jesus is God and is all-powerful, therefore he healed them of their diseases and cast out the demons.

Remember studying about the night when Nicodemus came to Jesus? Jesus told him that the only way a person can escape Satan's power and be able to know, love, and obey God is to be born again. Jesus was telling Nicodemus that in order to be accepted by God he must be born again. By God's power, he causes people to be born again spiritually into God's family.

Jesus explained to Nicodemus by reminding him of what happened to his Jewish forefathers in the wilderness. When the Jews sinned against God, He sent poisonous snakes to bite them, and they began to die. When they repented, God told Moses to make a brass snake and put it on a pole. God promised that whoever was bitten and looked at the brass snake would live.

Nicodemus had been trying to observe God's laws. He had not realized that in his own efforts, he was totally unacceptable to God. He needed to do what the Israelites had done and simply believe the promised Savior. We are in the same situation as Nicodemus. All of Adam's descendants are separated from God. The Israelites could not save themselves from the snakes, just like we can not save ourselves from sin and death. God delivered the Israelites, and only God can deliver us. Jesus said there is only one way we can be delivered from Satan, sin, and death, and that is to be born again into God's family. Jesus said that he must be lifted up, just as the brass snake was in the wilderness, so that whoever trusts in him will be born into the family of God and become a child of God. All those who put their trust in Jesus will be accepted by God.

No one needs to wait until he dies to know if he will be accepted or rejected by God. Those who refuse the Savior are condemned and rejected by God right now. Those who agree with God, repent and trust in the Savior are not condemned, but are accepted by God.

People came to see Jesus for various reasons. Some people were curious. Some wanted to be healed. Some thought he was going to be the king who would deliver them from Roman rule. Some wanted to hear him because he spoke God's Word with power, but others hoped he would say or do something they could find fault with. They wanted to charge him with a crime, not because he was guilty, but because they were jealous of his popularity with the people.

One day, four friends brought a paralyzed man to Jesus to be healed. When Jesus knew that this man truly believed in him, he forgave his sins. Those in the audience were right when they said only God can forgive sins, but they were wrong when they said Jesus had sinned by speaking this. Jesus is God and has the authority to forgive people their sins. The Scribes and Pharisees did not believe Jesus was God who had come to be the Savior. Jesus then demonstrated his power as God by completely healing the man. All the people were truly amazed.

Directions:

As you finish reading each of these lessons, answer the lesson questions on the following pages. When each question sheet is complete, please mail the sheet to the address indicated.

Please keep this book number 3 as our gift to you. Include your return address, and we will return your corrected answer sheet with helpful comments. You will receive book number 4 shortly after completing and sending the final lesson from book number 3.

Lesson 13 Questions:

1. What were the names of the two men who brought Moses a good report on the Promised Land?
2. What two things did the ten men see in the Promised Land that caused them to be fearful?
3. Who did the nation of Israel listen to, the ten men or Joshua and Caleb?
4. What was the result of their decision?
5. Who was the leader of Israel after Moses died?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

Paul & Mary VanderKley
1012 W. Nevada Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.

Lesson 14 Questions:

1. What did the Israelites do after Joshua died?
2. Who deceives people so they worship idols and other created things?
3. How did God punish the Israelites for worshipping idols?
4. What did God do when the Israelites admitted they were wrong and asked God to deliver them?
5. What happened after King Solomon died?
6. What did the Lord allow to happen to the northern ten tribes?
7. What did the Lord allow to happen to the southern two tribes?

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Marshalltown, IA 50158

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Lesson 15 Questions:

1. What was the name Zacharias gave to his son?
2. What was his work to be?
3. Why did the Savior have to be born of a virgin?
4. Was Jesus the promised Savior?
5. Are there many different saviors for people in different parts of the world, or only one?
6. What does the name Immanuel mean?
7. Why did Jesus never do anything wrong?
8. Is Jesus Christ the true and living God?

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Marshalltown, IA 50158

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Lesson 16 Questions:

1. What does the word repent mean?
2. Who was John getting the people ready to receive?
3. What did the Scribes do?
4. What did the Pharisees do?
5. What did the Sadducees do?
6. Do we have to be baptized to be saved from the punishment for our sins?
7. Who is greater, Jesus or Satan?

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Lesson 17 Questions:

1. Why were the demons afraid of Jesus?
2. How does leprosy remind you of sin?
3. Are we accepted by God if we are born again spiritually into God's family?
4. How are we born again?
5. How does the brass serpent which Moses put on the pole remind us of Jesus the Savior?

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Lesson 18 Questions:

1. Why did Jesus have the authority to forgive the man's sins?
2. Why could Jesus heal the sick?
3. What was Matthew's job when Jesus called him?
4. Will those who trust in their own goodness go to Heaven?
5. Although Jesus had many disciples, how many did he choose to be with him?
6. Were these men well-educated and wealthy?
7. Did Jesus know that Judas was not a real believer?

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